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ABU DAWUD REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN BEIRUT

NC220920Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 22 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 June--In a dispatch from Beirut, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports today that Abu Dawud, member of Fatah Revolutionary Council, was arrested 2 days ago in the wake of the escalation of the demands by the self-styled "National Democratic Line Within Fatah" [At-Tayyar Watani ad-Dimuqrati Bi Fatah] for a halt to retreats on the level of Palestinian action.

The newspaper says that this line is advocated by prominent political and military figures in the Fatah movement. This line is in agreement with the line of the other five Palestinian organizations who recently called for replacing the individualistic leadership with a collective leadership as a way to conduct Palestinian action on the basis of democracy instead of individualism.

AS-SIYASAH adds that the recent measures taken by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, including the formation of a revolution's court, the tendency to turn the resistance movement into a regular army and his rejection of the demands of the "National Democratic Line Within Fatah" continue to produce various repercussions and disputes among the various resistance movement quarters.

VOP: IRAQI STUDENTS ATTACK PALESTINIANS IN PEKING

JN211833Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] The Iraqi regime and its intelligence services continue their suspicious activities against the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people after the dastardly assassination operation against the PLO office director in Kuwait.

The Iraqi Embassy in Peking has directed its agent Iraqi students to attack the Palestinian students studying there. Reports received from Peking have confirmed that certain Iraqi students distributed magazines which attack brother Abu 'Ammar and the Fatah leadership. The Palestinian students returned these magazines after writing on them slogans which said: Fatah is a revolution which will continue until victory; long live the Palestinian revolution.

These reports added that the Iraqi students at midnight 2 days ago attacked the residence of the Palestinian students using sticks, but our students resisted them using knives, and the Iraqi students fled out of the building, where an Iraqi Embassy vehicle carried them away to the Iraqi Embassy, where they are still staying. One of our students was injured.

The representative of the Palestinian revolution in Peking, brother Sayyid 'Abd ar-Rahim, informed the PRC Foreign Ministry of the Iraqi Embassy's involvement in this attack.

The Palestinian students also distributed a statement at the university in which they exposed the Iraqi regime's hatred and rancor against the Palestinian revolution and the lies against the revolution leaders. These lies have been expressed in the magazines which speak for the Iraqi regime and disseminate lies in the name of the Palestinian people and their armed revolution. These magazines are distributed by the Iraqi students. The [students'] statement added: In the face of all this, a stand had to be taken against such action to prevent it from recurring.

Our students actually put a stop to such action by diplomatic means but this stop only served as a respite which the Iraqi students exploited in getting in touch with their embassy to obtain the green light and attack the sons of our revolution. These students actually got the green light and attacked our students under the direction of one of the staff of the Iraqi Embassy in Peking, who had arrived there especially to supervise the attack that resulted in the injury of one of our brothers. He was taken to the hospital.

The statement further said: This hostile action is but a continuation of the series of attacks carried out by the Iraqi regime's agents against the sons of our people and their revolution because the Iraqi regime has failed over the years to buy a single honest fighter or cadre of our revolution, regardless of the enormous bribes offered on the instructions of hostile quarters, which are using all means to strike at our revolution and to shatter the unity of our people.

In conclusion the statement said: The Iraqi regime which carried out assassination operations against our cadres in London and Kuwait and tried to distort our bright picture in Cyprus will not stop trying to strike at our revolution. The Iraqi students who attacked the sons of our revolution in Peking are well known for their bad conduct. Thus the fascists once again revealed their true nature. We will, however, stress that our revolution and people, especially the student sector, will remain the sharp dagger in the chest of these conspirators.

DISPUTE BETWEEN IRAQI GOVERNMENT, FATAH REPORTED

NC211005Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 21 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 June--The magazine 'AKHIR SA'AH reports today that the Fatah organization has uncovered a secret and elaborate plan drawn up by the Iraqi Ba'th Party to assassinate a number of Palestinian leaders who are accused by Iraq of supporting and collaborating with Syria. Elements from the Iraqi Intelligence Service have been assigned to carry out this bloody plan.

The magazine reports that the Palestinian surveillance services have uncovered this plan in the wake of the assassination of 'Ali Yasin, head of the PLO office in Kuwait. They have also discovered that these assassinations are carried with the assistance of the wing of Abu Nidal, who broke away from Fatah. Abu Nidal has been sentenced to death by Fatah and has made Baghdad the base of his operations, which are being financed by the Iraqi Intelligence Service.

The magazine adds that the serious crisis between Fatah and the Iraqi Government has escalated following the uncovering of this plan. Fatah has threatened vengeance against the Iraqi agents who are planning and carrying out these assassinations.

The magazine says that the Palestinian surveillance services recently uncovered an attempt to assassinate Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, who is Fatah's second in command, and George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The plan was to assassinate these two leaders in Beirut. The surveillance services arrested four Palestinians who were assigned to carry out this operation. A radio set, pistols equipped with silencers, explosives and handgrenades were found in the apartment of two of these four persons. Palestinian sources affirm that Abu Iyad and Habash miraculously escaped from the assassination attempt at the last moment.

Investigation has revealed that this operation was designed to protect Abu Nidal and that it is symptomatic of the internal dispute among the Palestinian rejectionist organizations.

The magazine adds that the Palestinian resistance quarters have strengthened the guard of certain Palestinian leaders, since the questioning of those who were arrested has revealed that the Iraqi assassination list contains the names of most of the well-known figures in the Fatah organization and the PLO.

FRONT APPEALS FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS IN JORDAN

JN211714Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 June--The Palestine liberation front has appealed to the Arab Journalists' Federation, which ended its extraordinary conference here today, to intervene to save the lives of 16 detainees from the front jailed in Jordan.

In a memo submitted to the permanent office of the Arab Journalists' Federation, the front said that the organs of the Jordanian regime launched a campaign of arrests against our comrades in February and apprehended 17 comrades. The memo added that one of them, Comrade 'Umar Musa by name, was martyred under torture on 5 June and that his comrades are threatened with death by torture.

The memo said that another group of strugglers, arrested while on their way to occupied Palestine, have been suffering for 4 years in the jails of the Jordanian regime without definite charges or trial.

ARGENTINE MONTONEROS DELEGATION VISITS PALESTINIANS

JN211739Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] A delegation representing the chief of staff of the Argentine Peronist Montoneros Army is visiting the Palestinian revolution. The delegation--which is headed by Maj (Marjon), the chief of the Operations Room, and includes Capt (Alcides), the officer in charge of the special forces of the movement--held several important meetings with a number of specialized organs of the Palestinian revolution. They also met with Abu Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member and member of the General Command of Al-'Asifah forces, and reviewed the general situation in Argentina and the Palestinian issue. They also reviewed bilateral relations and joint cooperation between the Montoneros movement and the Palestinian revolution.

The delegation visited the military installations in southern Lebanon, met with the Palestinian revolution fighters and learned firsthand about the circumstances and nature of the Palestinian struggle. The delegation then visited the institution of the sons of the martyr Samid and acquainted itself with the activities of the institution.

ORSZAG VILAG INTERVIEWS PLO'S QADDUMI

LD212014Y Budapest MTI in English 1715 GMT 21 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Budapest, June 21 (MTI)--The Budapest weekly ORSZAG VILAG carries an interview made by a reporter of the journal with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and "foreign minister" of the movement.

In connection with the statement which many believe, that the PLO should be in the most critical phase of its history, the Palestinian politician said:

"I do not think that this should be true. Our revolution has its roots deep in the masses, and the second generation of the warriors is growing up. In my opinion the crisis we went through in 1970, when the movement lost its Jordanian basis, was much more grave. Then it is also true that in our days the efforts of the imperialism and Israel to abolish the Palestine revolution have become more open and unconcealed."

In answer to the question if the PLO would come into a hopeless position, as many think, if it lost its armed presence in south Lebanon, Qaddumi pointed out: This presence is [word indistinct] by the 1969 Cairo Agreement which is still valid, and which was recently approved by the Lebanese Government. The mission of the UN forces in Lebanon stands in no contrast to this treaty. At the same time Qaddumi emphasized that the chief power of the Palestine movement lies in the support of the masses. "We are fighting for political goals primarily, with political weapons mainly, and although we defend this policy also by real arms, those who believe that the termination of our south Lebanese activity would involve the collapse of our movement totally misunderstand the Palestinian revolution," he said.

Qaddumi spoke of the PLO's relations with the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist countries in the following way: "The bonds of deep and intimate friendship tie us to these countries. We are fighting for a common cause: against imperialism, neocolonialism, and racial prejudices--so that peace and justice would be the ruling powers on earth. Our program that enjoys the full support of the Soviet Union is unchanged and unbroken; we demand that the Israeli troops should be fully withdrawn from the occupied territories, that we should be allowed to establish an independent Palestinian state and the Palestinian refugees should be able to return to their homes."

In connection with Egyptian President as-Sadat's policy of separate ways, Qaddumi explained that it doomed the hopes connected with Geneva to failure, and the Geneva conference can now only be convened if As-Sadat acknowledges his error in public.

Qaddumi then spoke of the American-Israeli controversies that might be evidences that the U.S. Mideast policy has changed, declaring: "I do not believe in this change of course. It can only be a disagreement of tactical nature between America and Israel. The Arab allies are not really important for the United States, who needs the Mideast oil but is not afraid of its owners. The Washington policy continues to be a time-marking one."

At the end of the interview the "foreign minister" of the PLO expressed his optimism: "Time works for us. Our revolution has survived many a storm. It is invincible because it represents the people's cause. It is always the human element that counts in revolutions and liberation wars, and not the technical or military potential. It is possible that Israel has reached the summit of its power, but its decline is unavoidable."

NEW COMMISSIONER GENERAL NAMED FOR ARAB BOYCOTT

NC220851Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0818 GMT 22 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 June--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has issued a decision appointing counselor Sayyid al-Barqi commissioner general of the Arab Office for the Boycott of Israel. Al-Barqi succeeds Muhammad Mahjub, who retired.

Al-Barqi previously occupied the post of deputy commissioner general of the Arab Office for the Boycott of Israel.

BAHRAIN

GUINEAN PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS IN MANAMA

JN211015Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1005 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 21 June--Officials here stated today that the Bahraini-Guinean talks which took place in Manama this morning centered on bilateral relations and the means to strengthen and develop them, particularly in the economic and political spheres.

During the talks, President Ahmed Sekou Toure explained the current situation in Africa in general and in Guinea in particular. The discussion also dealt with the current Arab situation, and particularly the Middle East issue. President Sekou Toure expressed his country's support for the Arab cause and for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

AMIR, OFFICIALS MEET WITH SRI LANKA LABOR MINISTER

JN201424Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 20 June--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received here today C.R.J. Seneviratne, Sri Lanka labor minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, met later today with the Sri Lanka labor minister in the presence of Shaykh 'Isa ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of labor and social affairs. The Bahraini minister later stated that the Sri Lanka labor minister had attended the ILO meetings recently held in Geneva and is now visiting some states in the region.

Shaykh 'Isa added that the Republic of Sri Lanka is well-known as one of the countries which export labor. Therefore, talks will be held with the Sri Lanka labor minister on the extent to which this labor force and expertise could be utilized in the field of vocational training. He added: We will brief the minister on the laws and regulations of the Bahraini Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs so as to facilitate the import of labor.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON NUMAYRI'S INITIATIVE

JN211010Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 21 June--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee, has the right at any time to call on the heads of the states represented in the committee to hold an Arab summit to discuss the best means to restore Arab solidarity to its previous status.

In a statement published here today, the minister said it was agreed during the committee's meetings in Khartoum that the dialog should be conducted on the highest level among the fraternal countries.

In reply to a question on whether or not the committee had received an Egyptian working paper, as recently published, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the committee had not received any working papers and that what concerns the committee in the first place is to achieve Arab solidarity.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE FAHD ARRIVES IN BONN, TALKS WITH SCHMIDT

For reportage on Crown Prince Fahd's 21-24 June visit to the FRG, see the 21 June Federal Republic of Germany section of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

YEMEN--PDRY

PARTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES FATAH'S ABU SALIH

LD191720Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the secretary general of the United Political Organization-National Front Central Committee, last night received in his office Brother Abu Salih, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and exchanged views with him on the situation in the Palestinian arena and on the issues of the common struggle which opposes the conspiratorial schemes against the just cause of the Palestinian people.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Salih Muti' Yafa'i, member of the Politburo and foreign minister; Muhammad Sa'id Abdallah Muhsin, candidate member of the Politburo and acting minister of state security; and Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Department of Foreign relations at the Central Committee Secretariat.

EGYPTIAN MAGAZINE REPORTS MOSCOW, ADEN SECRET AGREEMENT

NC210854Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0814 GMT 21 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun--The magazine AKHIR SA'AH reports today that there is a secret agreement between Moscow and Aden to build two Soviet military bases in South Yemen.

The magazine says the agreement was reached during the visit which Admiral Gorshkov, Soviet deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Soviet naval forces, paid to Aden. The magazine says a Soviet naval base at the port of Aden and a Soviet air base will be built under the agreement. Moreover, the PDRY will be given 30 MIG-21 planes, 5 fast patrol boats and a strong radar network that will cover the southern part of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf area.

YEMEN--YAR

PRIME MINISTER OUTLINES POLICY BEFORE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

JN191706Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Government policy statement delivered by YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani before Constituent People's Assembly in Sa'a' on 19 June--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Brother speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly, brother members of the Constitutent People's Assembly, all brothers present here, may the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

I am proud to stand before you today and present the ministerial statement of the new government. This pride stems not only from the contents of the statement, but also from the fact that standing before you is, in my opinion, another stone to be added to the new edifice which is being erected in this country--that is, the edifice of democracy and of the construction of the constitutional institutions under the prudent and enlightened leadership of brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Since it was prepared and announced, the 5-year plan has been the objective which directs our steps in our work in the long and medium term; we discuss it in our daily work and consider its implementation--with all its elements, components, aims, programs and projects--as the guarantee for the YAR's progress and prosperity in a coordinated and harmonious manner. Thus we believe that all our previous actions should be evaluated and measured by the degree to which we have achieved this plan. The plan's future success, policies, measures and even its daily implementation should be inspired by the directives of the brother leader the president and by the factors and contents of the plan.

In the field of foreign policy, the forthcoming stage will witness: continued development of the republic's relations with fraternal and friendly countries in a manner compatible with national and pan-Arab interests and on the basis of mutual interests; continued constructive dialog with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland as well as a strengthening of private ties and relations with the brothers in the Arabian Peninsula, in addition to work for attaining Arab solidarity; coordination of the broad lines of the relations between the various government departments and the outside world with the aim of achieving a unified foreign policy; paying attention to the fact that the service of the diplomatic and consular missions in coordinating our international relations should be in proportion with the aspirations of our country; looking after the interests of our citizens abroad; coordination with (?specialized) departments to look after those sent abroad on scholarships; and dealing with the problem of funds allocated for missions to buy buildings abroad.

Brothers: I have reviewed for you some of the efforts of the previous government and the broad lines of the policy of the new government. I am full of hope that this policy, which we intend to follow, is in line with the aspirations and aims of our great people and the instructions of the leader president.

Proceeding from our complete trust in the person of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; from our reassurance about his prudence in ruling the country; and from our trust in the Constituent People's Assembly, all of whose members are meeting here, my government hopes that this trust is mutual and dominated by the spirit of cooperation for the welfare and prosperity of this country.

PRESIDENT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO NEW MAGAZINE

JN161355Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 78 JN

[Interview granted by YAR President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghahsmi to MA'IN magazine--a new magazine issued yesterday by the Information and Culture Ministry; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: You have worked for the restoration of democratic life. Can we learn in some detail the motives which prompted you to do so?

Answer: I explained this in my speech to the Constituent People's Assembly on the occasion of its inauguration on 25 February. As I said in that speech, the most important factor which prompted us to decide to restore democratic life was our absolute conviction--reached through our lengthy review of the past experience of our country, both before and after the immortal September revolution, and through our review of the experience of many Third World countries whose conditions are similar to ours--that true parliamentary democracy is the best method of government and the most effective means of insuring the continuation of any system of government and of guaranteeing stability in any country. This is apart from our firm belief that autocracies are most likely to suffer deviations and that sometimes they cause many tragedies and ordeals. Moreover, autocracies care little about building a firm and continuous system. Even if they try to set up a continuous system, the continuity of such a system remains dependent on the existence of the autocrat or autocracy, and when they cease to exist the system they set up will also end. Then the successor will have to start from zero. Furthermore, I do not see anything which justified depriving a people such as ours, who have been tried and purified by the circumstances and crises which they have passed, from enjoying their natural right to choose their rules and practice freedom.

As I said in my speech at the inauguration of the Constituent People's Assembly, freedom consists not only of rights and privileges but also responsibilities and duties. I am confident that our people exercise their freedom on the basis of such an understanding. Finally, all that I am concerned about, and my aim on the basis of our decision to restore democratic life, is that with the people we will build a stable and firm system whose existence will not depend on my existence or the existence of other persons who share the responsibility with me. Instead, it will rest on the existence of the people, who are more lasting; for individuals must come to an end, no matter how long they may live or stay in power.

Question: There are those who argue that democracy is only an appearance or showcase of regimes in the world, because behind the show of democracy there exist certain influential forces--forces which wield power and direct the life of the people in the service of their interests. This is in addition to the existence of political or social organizations, or trade unions, of all these, which exercise certain influence on the state machinery and the course of government.

Answer: What you say might be true in some of the countries you refer to. Nevertheless, I believe that parliamentary democracy represents the better system. Its value, importance, or benefit is not diminished by the existence of struggle or differences among the political or social forces over interests and ideas. Such struggle and differences are natural and inevitable. What is important is that the struggle and differences remain within a framework of objective dialog and discussion, and not be extended to armed clashes or violence. Also, the public interest must dominate the interests of individuals or factions, for democracy will lose the justification of its existence and its meaning if it appears to serve certain citizens to the exclusion of others, or one group or sector to the exclusion of others.

What you mentioned in your question cannot apply to our country for several reasons. In our country, for example, the phenomenon of centers of power has disappeared. No specific group can now influence the course of government or direct such a course in accordance with its own interests. Nor can such a group use government in the service of its interests. Moreover, we do not yet have any organizations, either political or factional. The democracy whose system and foundations we are trying to entrench in our country does not belong to any specific person or faction. We will make sure it does not do so, because we believe democracy must belong to every citizen or lose its value.

SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE ARRIVES FOR TALKS

NC220631Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Jun 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will hold talks today with Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on current African affairs, the Middle East situation and bilateral relations between the two countries and means of developing and strengthening them in all fields. President Barre arrived in Cairo after midnight and is due to leave Cairo this morning for Alexandria.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES GUINEA PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE

NC211946Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jun 78 NC

[Text] This evening, at the Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure and the delegation accompanying his excellency during his 2-day official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit, President Anwar as-Sadat will hold discussions with President Sekou Toure. Their discussions will deal with international questions in general and African issues in particular. They will also deal with developments in the Middle East and strengthening relations between the two countries in various fields.

President Anwar as-Sadat will host a dinner banquet at Ra's at-Tin Palace tonight in honor of the distinguished African guest. The discussions between the two presidents will begin at Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria tomorrow morning.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I INTERVIEWED IN PARIS

LD212021Y Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 17 Jun 78 pp 1, 11 LD

[Interview granted by Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mar'i to AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI correspondent Huda al-Husayni in Paris during stopover en route to United States]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the purpose of this visit to the United States?

[Answer] In the past 2 years we have received a large number of delegations from the U.S. Congress on visits to Egypt. Altogether about 300 of them visited Egypt. The principal topic of discussion with them was the Middle East problem. Therefore, it is our duty when we receive an invitation from the U S Congress as members of the Egyptian People's Assembly to respond to the invitation so that contacts take place on the parliamentary level and various subjects are discussed at this level. Today we are visiting Washington at the invitation of Mr O'Neill, speaker of the House.

[Question] Last week President as-Sadat hinted at the possibility of a new war in the area. Is the reason for this Israel's negative attitude or the reluctance of the United States to bring pressure on Israel to accept concessions?

[Answer] In his speech to the Second Army the president did refer to this point, but it should not be looked upon separately from the speech as a whole. The foreign press gave prominence to this point, which is not fair because a speech by a statesman should be viewed as a whole. What did the president say? He said that we have initiated peace and referred to the initiative which has been appreciated by the entire world and was completely accepted by the Egyptian people.

He also pointed to Israeli intransigence and to the fact that after the initiative Israel offered nothing and failed to understand and respond to the initiative with positive steps leading to the establishment of just and lasting peace in the Middle East. President as-Sadat also said that nevertheless he is optimistic and that some time will be allowed for Israel to understand the course of events in the area. But if all these measures fail, this does not mean that the land should remain occupied. Do not the armed forces have a role to play? Those people who focused their attention on the question of the possibility of the outbreak of war, for example, apparently expected As-Sadat to declare that the army had been disbanded. He spoke to the troops and told them: Should the time come when I ask you to carry out your duties, I want you to discharge these duties in the same way you did in October 1973. Therefore, the president did not call for war but analyzed a certain situation. Therefore, it is only fair that the speech be considered as a whole. Moreover, should not we as Arab citizens ask ourselves what will the result be if all efforts for peace are exhausted? Will we accept the dropping of the Palestinian problem as the number one Arab problem? We will not accept this.

[Question] Can Egypt fight a war alone?

[Answer] This is a very premature question. As the English proverb says, "let's not talk about crossing the bridge before we come to it." No one spoke about war as a certainty or about us fighting it alone. It is too early to judge this situation. But we must not forget the 1973 war and the preparations for it when all the Arabs were saying that we were incapable of making war.

[Question] The "rejection and steadfastness" countries are demanding that President as-Sadat drop the peace initiative.

[Answer] As a politician I view such a demand with astonishment and surprise. The initiative is an action that has already taken place and results have actually occurred and there are new results daily. The story of the U.S. arming of Egypt and Saudi Arabia and of the change in world opinion are things that have already taken place as a result of the initiative. Someone would come and tell me: No, I deny the initiative. How can one deny something that has happened? Did not President as-Sadat go to Jerusalem? He did. Also there have been worldwide results consequent upon this trip, although our outlook on these results may differ from the outlook of some other people.

[Question] Is Egypt still optimistic?

[Answer] A politician cannot and should not say that he is pessimistic unless he reaches the point at which he must take a firm decision. But as long as pressures continue and the negotiations continue one should remain optimistic and the door should not be closed, as some of the rejectionist countries are demanding. Moreover, if the rejection states want us to renounce the initiative then they must make it clear to us what is the alternative, so that we can compare the alternative with what exists now so that we can choose the better of the two.

[Question] President as-Sadat said that there will be a surprise in July. Can you tell us something about it?

[Answer] President as-Sadat's surprise concerns domestic and not foreign matters, domestic matters of interest to the people. Our people have become tired of the communications system, of the public utilities and of the entrenched bureaucracy in government departments. I believe that when the president referred to a surprise he meant an internal surprise that will relieve the people of their difficulties.

[Question] It has been said that President as-Sadat has sent a verbal message to Begin.

[Answer] There are no contacts between us at present. There are absolutely no contacts between Egypt and Israel. If there were any contacts we have enough courage to say so.

[Question] Why did President as-Sadat take all these measures?

[Answer] First of all, the measures that were taken are not as extensive as reported in the foreign press. I know that these measures are widely discussed in foreign newspapers. But if we look back we must ask the question: Who advocated democracy in Egypt after 15 May 1971? It was President as-Sadat. Who turned the various factions within the ASU into parties despite the opposition of many at that time, including myself? It was As-Sadat. Those who talk about democracy in Egypt and shed tears about it, saying that there is no longer democracy, also claimed that there was not democracy in Egypt even before the referendum. They also claimed that there was no press freedom. They continued to make such claims even after the referendum, saying that democracy has been stabbed in the back and stolen. This is astonishing. What has been stolen? We are in a transitional period. My personal understanding of democracy is that we are in a transitional period leading to democracy. Up to this day we have not attained true democracy. Whoever claims that we have attained full democracy is wrong. We in Egypt do not wish to be wrong. After 25 years of a one-party system we began implementing a multiparty system, but we have observed that there has been a violation of this system.

[Question] But the measures taken against parties are a blow to the multiparty system.

[Answer] These measures absolutely do not strike at democracy. When matters crystallize after 2 months it will become clear that the line that President as-Sadat adopted and that Egypt approved in regard to democracy is irreversible. Who has once called for freedom cannot go back on it or hide behind flimsy excuses, and who has once advocated democracy cannot turn back on it.

PRESS COMMENTS ON PEACE INITIATIVE, JOURNALISTS

NC2208355Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Jun 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Today's newspapers give front page lead to President as-Sadat's talks with Guinea President Sekou Toure, which, the papers say, will deal with the Middle East, Africa and strengthening of economic and political relations between the two countries. Today's press also gives prominence to the talks which President as-Sadat will hold today with Somali President Siad Barre on African affairs, especially the situation in the Horn of Africa, Middle East developments and bilateral relations.

The Cairo papers also give prominence on their front pages in banner headlines to President as-Sadat's interview with Walter Cronkite, which was broadcast yesterday by the American CBS television network. In that interview the president affirmed that it would be useless to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin as long as he adopts the hard line of the old guard.

Commenting on the U.S. position after the Israeli reply of procrastination, AL-AKHBAR says: Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has stated an important fact. He said that the Menahem Begin government has chosen the course of confrontation with the United States and that this course cannot be defended politically.

Referring to the numerous statements made about new U.S. proposals to prompt the parties concerned in the Middle East to move toward a settlement, and about an imminent visit by a high-ranking U.S. official to the Middle East to act as a mediator to activate the situation which Israel is dangerously trying to deadlock, AL-AKHBAR says: We welcome U.S. participation in surmounting the difficulties created by this Israeli intransigence. At the same time we believe that the U.S. attitude in the coming phase must be clear and firm. Clarity here applies to the basic elements necessary for a just peace, namely, Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied after the 1967 war and a just settlement of the Palestinian problem. Firmness means facing the Israeli intransigence in such a way as to change the logic of the Israeli leadership, which the Israeli defense minister himself described as misleading to the Israeli people and pushing the situation to the brink of war.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that the United States has the means to put an end to the Israeli intransigence and open the door to principles that will achieve a just peace in the area.

AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH today comment on what happened during the meetings of the so-called Permanent Bureau of the AAB Journalists Federation which was called to an emergency session at the request of the Lebanese Journalists Association to discuss the so-called case of the journalists in Egypt.

AL-AHRAM says: Those who have sold their pens and professional honor to whoever paid the price; those who have turned their national press into a cheap commodity that is bought and sold in the market of outbidding and altercations; those who have lost their pan-Arab commitment and national identity and have become feeble and false people characterized by agentry and subservience to foreign embassies in and out of their countries; those who have long turned the Arab cause, struggle and steadfastness into a trade; those who have become the slaves of the "leading party" [the Ba'th Party], not caring even if the homeland, its values and ethics are lost; all these people have met suddenly in Beirut, which is fraught with plots, seditions and sectarian strife and is an example of an extreme case of foreign occupation. Forgetting everything, they met under the name of the so-called Permanent Bureau of the Arab Journalists Federation, which was called to an emergency meeting at the request of the Lebanese Journalists Association to discuss the so-called case of the Egyptian journalists in Egypt.

AL-AHRAM adds: After the Iraqi Ba'thist regime executed 21 Iraqi Communists as a first installment and after the Syrian Ba'thist regime liquidated the Syrian journalists opposed to the ruling 'Alawite regime and, while the Iraqi intelligence is liquidating the Palestinian strugglers, the yellow press in these derelict regimes comes out to talk about freedom in Egypt. The Iraqi information minister brags that his country is prepared to give Iraqi citizenship to every Egyptian journalist who loses his citizenship, and give a passport to every Egyptian journalist whose passport is withdrawn. Thus, and without shame, they talk about freedom while their people are prisoners of their police regimes. They talk about democracy when they were the first to assassinate democracy and to fill their prisons with men with free opinions.

In conclusion AL-AHRAM stresses that Egypt will never turn back and will not be deterred by the barking of those who have taken the course of treason and subservience.

ENVOY MAY CHOOSE ALGERIA AS 'COUNTRY OF EXILE'

LD211158Y Lisbon in Portuguese to Timor Macao and Australia 1025 GMT 21 Jun 78 LD

[Text] General ash-Shadhili, the Egyptian ambassador to Portugal, has stated that he will not return to Cairo as long as President as-Sadat remains in power and as long as democracy is not restored in his country. He also said that his country of exile will be an Arab state, probably Algeria.

After describing President as-Sadat's memoirs as pure fiction, particularly the part dealing with the October war, General ash-Shadhili urged the Egyptian people and the Arab nation to close ranks against the dangers threatening the country. We must save Egypt and the Arabs, the general concluded.

COMMITTEE TO DRAFT CODE OF HONOR TO BE FORMED

NC201750Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 78 NC

[From the radio newsreel]

[Excerpt] Dr Mustafa Khalil, the ASU secretary general, and Dr Sufi Abu Talib, the president of Cairo University, have made statements today. Our correspondent Badi' al-'Azmah reports:

[begin recording] ASU Secretary General Dr Mustafa Khalil told me after President Anwar as-Sadat completed delivering his speech today that a committee to be called the "committee for drawing up the draft code of honor for democratic practice" will be formed under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mustafa Khalil. The committee will include the two assistant secretaries general and some members of the ASU Central Committee. One of the primary tasks of this committee will be to receive all proposals concerning the draft code of honor for democratic practice which will come from the members of the Central Committee or from the various segments of the public or from any citizen. After receiving all the proposals, the committee will prepare a report on controlling political activity and the draft code of honor for democratic practice to be submitted to the ASU Central Committee at its next meeting on 22 July. I have learned that this committee will be formed within the next 3 days.

This committee will also review the book which was written by Dr Sufi Abu Talib, the president of Cairo University, on the theory of democratic socialism. Dr Sufi Abu Talib told me that the theory tackles the political and economic aspects in Egypt before and after the 23 July 1952 Revolution and the corrective revolution which was led by President as-Sadat on 15 May 1971. [end recording]

EGYPT, U.S. AGREE ON SURVEY OF DESERT ENERGY

LD211946Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Jun 78 p 1 LD

[By Mohammad 'Abd at-Tawwab]

[Text] Al-Ghardaqah--Agreement has been reached between Egypt and the United States to set up joint working groups of experts in nuclear energy and electricity from both countries in order to carry out a comprehensive survey of the resources of nuclear energy and black sands in the Egyptian deserts. The groups will submit reports on the outcome of the survey to President Anwar as-Sadat and President Carter next August. The Nuclear Energy Authority, the Nuclear Power Stations Authority, the Geological Survey Authority and the Telemetry Center at the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology will take part in the field research. The governor of the Red Sea Province, Maj Gen 'Ali 'Uthman, has discussed with the Egyptian nuclear and electricity experts projects for developing energy in the province.

SPANISH KING AND QUEEN ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD

JN220732Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 June--Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia arrived in Baghdad this morning on a 2-day official visit to Iraq. The visit comes at the invitation of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. King Carlos and Queen Sofia were received at Baghdad International Airport by President al-Bakr, members of the Revolution Command Council, ministers and high-ranking officials.

The delegation accompanying King Carlos comprises Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja, chief of the Royal Court (Marques Mondicher), chief of the military office in the Royal Palace Lt Gen (Joaquin Balbezoela) and several officials in the ministries of trade, foreign affairs, culture and information.

The talks between President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and King Juan Carlos are due to begin this evening.

COMMUNICATIONS DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW TALKS

JN210800Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 June--An Iraqi delegation under Communications Ministry Under Secretary Rashid Salih al-'Ali left Baghdad for Moscow this morning for a weeklong visit to the Soviet Union.

In Moscow the delegation will discuss topics related to telephone and cable communications with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries via satellite. The talks will also deal with two proposals for Iraqi participation in the intersputnik system of Soviet satellites. This would involve the establishment of a ground station for this system to receive and send telephone and cable dispatches and also radio and television programs. The second proposal is related to commercial use of several channels via the [word indistinct] satellite system from the Soviet Union to perform these services without having to establish a ground station.

TURKISH DELEGATION COMMENTS ON TRANSPORT ACCORD, LEAVES

JN211653Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 June--(Makram Artin), Turkish Communications Ministry under secretary, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad en route home this afternoon following an official 5-day visit to Iraq. (Artin) said that the talks held between the Iraqi and Turkish delegations had realized the aspirations of the two countries to expand and develop cooperation.

In a press statement, (Artin) announced that a comprehensive agreement has been reached whereby Turkish Airlines planes will be allowed to stop in Baghdad en route to the Arab Gulf countries. He said that the agreement included cooperation and exchange of cadres and technical expertise in the field of sea transport, and the facilitation of the movement of passengers and goods to the Black Sea and Mediterranean ports and Europe. The two countries will also be linked by an express railway. The Turkish Communications Ministry under secretary added that agreement was also reached on developing telecommunications between Iraq and Turkey.

Concluding his statement, (Artin) expressed happiness at visiting Iraq and witnessing the signs of progress being made in various fields.

SHARAF: SOVEREIGNTY OVER WEST BANK WILL NOT BE DEMANDED

JN220840Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jun 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Text] New York, by cable from 'Adnan al-Katib--Chief of the Royal Court 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf has declared that Jordan will not insist on exercising sovereignty over the West Bank, because Jordan believes in the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination.

Sharaf, who was speaking to the New York TIMES correspondent, emphasized the broad lines of the Jordanian stand toward Israel and the Palestinian problem. He said: Our stand is very simple. We want Israel to withdraw and the Palestinians to decide their future. If they want a state of their own or if they wish to join us in a federal union or a merger, we are willing to do so.

Sharaf added: On the other hand, we are not prepared to accept a peaceful settlement with Israel unless it withdraws. Some people might find it convenient to believe that this stand of ours is a tactical maneuver. However, the truth is that this is our real stand.

The correspondent said that Jordanian officials believe there is no justification for talking about a Jordanian role, because Israel has failed to present a reasonable formula for the exercise of self-determination by the inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The New York TIMES correspondent added that he quoted a Jordanian official of Palestinian origin as saying that the Jordanians feel that there must be some kind of ties between the two banks of Jordan if a Palestinian state is established.

KING HUSAYN, QUEEN NUR LEAVE FOR ENGLAND

JN211116Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman this morning for the United Kingdom on a private visit which will last several days. Their majesties were seen off at Amman airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and several members of the Hashemite family. They were also seen off by the prime minister and his wife, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and his wife, the ministers, the acting commander in chief of the armed forces, several civilian and military officials and the British ambassador in Amman. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in before His Majesty King Husayn, and in the presence of the cabinet, as regent during his majesty's absence from the homeland.

INFORMATION MINISTER RECEIVES IRANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION

JN212029Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] In his office this evening, Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah received members of the Iranian military delegation currently visiting Jordan. Abu 'Awdah explained Jordanian views on and stand toward the Israeli occupation, particularly in light of the latest Israeli position in which the Israeli Government endorsed Begin's plan for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This plan is based on expansion by annexing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip occupied in the June 1967 aggression.

Abu 'Awdah explained the dimensions of Israeli policy concerning the peace efforts and Israeli responsibility for obstructing the efforts to establish a just and permanent peace in the area by refusing to obey the international desire to solve the Middle East problem.

AL-JUMAYYIL REACTS TO 'ZGHARTA NOTABLES' STATEMENT

NC211547Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 21 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] In a press statement today, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil expressed surprise at the statement issued by the notables of the Zgharta area, saying: They know who we are and also know that our grief over the tragic incident is equal to theirs. The Lebanese Phalangist leader said: Father Sim'an ad-Duwayhi and Messrs Renee Mu'awad, Simon Bulus, Salim Karam, and former President Sulayman Franjiyah in particular know the Phalangist Party better than anyone else. They were companions in the most difficult of times.

He said: I am here to ask them and their consciences: Is it true, as the statement said, that the Phalangist Party leaders are operating with imported ideas and funds in order to partition Lebanon and settle the Palestinians in it? Is there anyone who has stood against partition and against the settlement of the Palestinians more firmly than we? Had we wanted partition, it would have been easy for us to move to the known areas during the war; and had we wanted the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon, we would not have waged battles of life or death and paid a heavy price in life, blood, stability and prosperity.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: Is there anyone who does not know that the Phalangist Party has always disregarded every consideration in order to defend legality and support the regime, and that it was the primary support of the regime? In fact, during the Lebanese war, the Phalangist Party was the protective shield of the regime, and its concern for the homeland while it was facing occupation was equal to its concern for legality and for supporting and strengthening the regime with all its means and resources. The history of the Phalangist Party proves that despite the mistakes and sins committed against it, the Phalangist Party always believed and continued to believe in basic Lebanese foundations that insure life and stability. These are: the government, legality, the army and the judiciary. The party has never disavowed these principles.

When the Zgharta statement calls on the state to regain its control over every part of Lebanon, that statement speaks for us, too. We will never be less concerned, enthusiastic, and ready to help the state--which is ours--regain its control and authority. This is because we know as others know that when the state's authority becomes weak, other authorities emerge and the cause for which we have sacrificed and are still sacrificing will be lost.

CABINET MEETS; SARKIS TO MAKE SPEECH 22 JUNE

NC211254Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jun 78 NC

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis presided over the weekly cabinet session at 1115 today. The cabinet session was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the other ministers.

Before the cabinet session, his excellency the president held a working meeting attended by Prime Minister al-Huss during which the general situation in the country was discussed.

The cabinet's session lasted until 1410. After the session Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Umar Musayki read the following official statement: The cabinet discussed the general situation in the country, particularly the security situation and the situation in southern Lebanon. It also discussed matters on its agenda and made necessary decisions. The cabinet will continue discussing the general situation at a session to be held tomorrow afternoon. His Excellency President Sarkis will also address a message to the citizens tomorrow evening.

UNIFIL CLARIFIES ACTIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

NC211154Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] In response to press inquiries, the UN information center in Beirut has distributed the following information which it received from the headquarters of the UN forces command in An-Naqurah: After 13 June the UNIFIL took up positions in 14 main posts in their area of operation in southern Lebanon. This is in addition to five observation posts manned by UN military observers. These posts are located along the main infiltration routes. Patrols set out from some of these posts in all directions covering an area extending 360 degrees. No group of forces has at any time been isolated from its command center or has been left without food or water.

Meanwhile, discussions are continuing in the UN organization and in the field, the UNIFIL area of operation, to extend the area of operations in an effective manner to insure complete freedom of movement in the whole area. New and suitable positions are being taken over almost daily in the central sector to carry out UNIFIL's mission. The principal method in all areas depends on a practical effort to clarify and calm the situation. The mission of UNIFIL is being carried out to prevent hostile actions from any side and to continue to assist the residents of the area to return to normal life, always taking into consideration the need to assist the Lebanese Government to regain its authority in all parts of UNIFIL's area of operation.

CLASHES OCCUR BETWEEN PALESTINIAN GROUPS NEAR SIDON

NC220701Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 22 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Five Palestinians were killed and over 15 others were wounded in clashes which broke out in the 'Ayn al-Hilwah camp near Sidon. The camp was closed down because of the arrival of the Lebanese and Arab deterrent forces. The battle broke out between supporters of communist Palestinian organizations and other elements belonging to organizations which support PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's decision forbidding the staging of fedayeen operations against Israel from south Lebanon.

Town Itself Tense

NC220739Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0715 GMT 22 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Following the bloody events which occurred in 'Ayn al-Hilwah camp yesterday in which 5 persons were killed and 15 others were wounded, these events extended to Sidon and its suburbs this morning. Shops closed down, heavily armed men appeared in the streets of the town and the situation became tense.

Initial reports this morning indicate that there is fear of serious repercussions unless the Palestinian officials hasten to control the armed elements which have taken up positions in the town since the early hours of today.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES SOMALI RULING PARTY ENVOY

LD181525Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 18 Jun 78 LD

[Summary] Algiers--Yesterday at the presidency President Boumediene received Ahmed Bencherif, minister of irrigation, who gave an account of his recent official visit to Hungary and Romania.

The president also received [Somali] Imam Moussa Essadr, together with the delegation accompanying him, and Col Abdelkader El Hadj Mohammed, member of the Central Committee of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, who conveyed the greetings of President Siad Barre to Boumediene.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES ARAB STUDENTS AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY

LD201645Y Tripoli JANA in English 1454 GMT 20 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Sofia, June 20, JANA--Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, secretary-general of the General People's Congress yesterday met the Arab students in Bulgarian universities, at the University of Sofia. Lt Colonel al-Kharrubi and Mr al-'Abbar, the Jamahiriyah's ambassador to Sofia, were present at the meeting.

The students received the leader of the revolution with thunderous applause and shouted slogans hailing the Al-Fatah revolution. The president of the Arab Students Union delivered a speech in which he conveyed the pleasure of the Arab students for this opportunity provided by the leader of the great Al-Fatah revolution.

He said: "This meeting between Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and the Arab students is taking place at a time of intensified imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots aimed at striking at the achievements gained by the Arab nation with the socialist camp."

He added: "These schemes are intended to destroy the Palestinian cause and the Arab liberation movement. The Arab students are determined to foil these schemes. This is certain, thanks to the will of the Arab nation and the support of the world democratic societies."

Amid loud applause Colonel al-Qadhdhafi then delivered a speech in which he described the radical transformations in the Jamahiriyah which resulted in handing the power, the wealth and the arms to the people. He said: "This has actually happened through people's basic congresses and committees popularly directing all the society's institutions."

He added: "The people are the only source of the real (?decisions) regarding all matters. The General People's Congress, which is the gathering of all the trade unions, associations and people's committees and congresses, is the supreme committee which formulates the decisions of the people's congresses in a way that makes them capable of being executed."

He went on to say: "The dictum that there is no democracy without people's congresses has become a reality and the government in the Jamahiriyah has become a people's government, contrary to the situation of the rest of the world's peoples who are oppressed and merely choose their rulers in the best of times."

He affirmed: "Libya has already passed this stage because her people [illegible] and power belongs to the masses. Thus, it is justly named 'the Jamahiriyah' and thus it belongs to you and the whole Arab masses."

He added: "The experience of people's power is a challenge to the Arab regimes which are still to get to this stage."

He said: "On the other hand, it represents the hope of the Arab people for final emancipation from repression and the chains which tied the Arab masses and placed them in an unenviable position. This position is represented by the internal oppression and by being defeated by the enemy from without." He added: "The reason for this is the fact that the will of the Arab people is not free. When the Arab soldier goes to fight the enemy, he is not motivated to do so because the land is owned by feudalists, the capital is possessed by the capitalists and the power is monopolised by the rulers. These are important reasons for the fighter not to be convinced of his struggle."

He pointed out that the Arab world's wealth was enjoyed by the minority while the majority was still suffering from hardship and poverty and affirmed that popular revolution in the Arab native land was imperative, as referred to in the 17th Chapter of the Green Book.

"After we analyse the question of power in the Jamahiriyah, we discover the road to the ultimate solution of the economic problem whereby power, wealth and arms are in the people's hands, a matter which always was and still is the thinkers' dream everywhere and throughout history."

After Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's speech, the leader of the revolution conducted a frank dialogue with the students discussing the most important current Arab issues among which were the Palestinian cause and the conspiracies aimed at destroying it.

They also discussed the question of Arab unity affirming that the Jamahiriyah was still pushing the call for unity. Then they dealt with Arab solidarity which was destroyed by the Egyptian president's trip of shame, the role played by the steadfastness front in foiling the imperialist, reactionary conspiracies and dealing with the question of the Western [word indistinct].

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was asked about the reason for changing the Libyan flag. He said that the masses burned the former flag because it was stained when it was raised alongside the Zionist flag during the Egyptian president's visit. "This flag should not have been unfurled in occupied Jerusalem before liberating it, for which reason the Arab Libyan people decided on that very day to burn this flag. The revolutionary committees raised the green flag instead, which represents hope, life, spring and paradise. [Quotation marks as received]

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR GORYUNOV

LD211536Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jun 78 LD

[Text] At the Royal Palace in Fez this morning, His Majesty King Hassan II received Dmitriy Goryunov, Soviet ambassador to Rabat.

SUDAN

MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER PRAISES NUMAYRI'S EFFORTS

JN220855Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum 22 June--The Moroccan foreign minister has praised the role being played by Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to restore Arab solidarity and return the usurped rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement he made upon his arrival here yesterday, the Moroccan foreign minister said that his visit comes within the framework of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade and economics. He pointed out that he is making the visit in response to an invitation extended to him by the vice president and foreign minister. He said he will convey the greetings of King Hassan II to President Numayri and the fraternal affection of the Moroccan people to the Sudanese people.

WESTERN SAHARA

APS REPORTS SDAR COMMUNIQUE ON BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD211512Y Algiers APS in French 0300 GMT 21 Jun 78 LD

[Summary] SDAR (liberated territories), APS--The Defense Ministry of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic has published a military communique on actions by the Saharan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] in Bir Mogrein and on the ore train between 10 and 17 June.

The SPLA attacked the monarchist garrison in Bir Mogrein, Mauritania with losses of 18 dead and 25 wounded on the enemy side and considerable material damage. On 12 June, the SPLA attacked the Zouirat ore railroad destroying two engines and an escort car and killing at least nine people. On 16 June, the ore train was attacked between Bou Lanouar and Inal. Enemy troops escorting the train were forced to flee after the loss of 19 soldiers killed and some 20 wounded. The ore train was then blown up. Three engines, six tank cars and a load of 15 vehicles were put out of action. The SPLA seized two mortars, a 120 mm gun and 16 G-3 rifles.

On 10 June, the SPLA attacked the enemy garrison at Amgala where about 10 monarchist soldiers were either killed or wounded. But the highest Moroccan losses were made on 14 June in two deadly ambushes in the Tifariti region; 26 soldiers were killed, 35 wounded and 10 vehicles destroyed.

On 17 June, the SPLA attacked the fortified post of Tizguui-Remz and intercepted enemy reinforcements sent to assist the post. Circled and attacked from all sides, the reinforcements were forced to retreat. The bodies of 24 of their soldiers were found on the battlefield and over 15 others were wounded. Four enemy vehicles were destroyed, and one soldier of the Moroccan Army was captured.

The SPLA fighters seized from the enemy: two 75 mm short-range guns, two 12.7 mm machineguns, 22 7.62 mm FAL rifles, one antitank rocket launcher, two transmitters and various types of ammunition.

REACTION TO STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT REPORTED

TA220800Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Jun 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Initial reactions in Israel to the State Department spokesman's statement are reported by correspondent Sara Frankel:

The United States, as is its wont, is reacting in two voices, say Jerusalem circles. State Department officials scold Israel, and the assistant secretary of state soothes us. Then comes the official communique, and it includes two parts. Basically, the circles say, this is a positive reaction. One part complains that the Israeli replies do not react in full to the U.S. questions; the other part refers to the operational aspect. The United States will continue the talks with Israel and with Egypt and will seek ways to continue the negotiations with the possibility of a renewed shuttle trip by a U.S. personality in the area.

Israel agrees with the second part, but not with the first. Jerusalem is dismayed by the fact that the United States avoids reacting to the replies it received from the Egyptians on the Israeli questions: How does Egypt interpret Resolution 242, and whether it would agree to conduct separate negotiations with Israel. Jerusalem would like to know what the Egyptian replies were, since the Americans do say that they had talks with Egypt regarding the subject of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. What are Egypt's ideas? Jerusalem asks. If one is to judge by As-Sadat's speech this week, one could find in it the Egyptian position regarding the U.S. questions to Israel. As-Sadat told his listeners that with the implementation of the agreement, Jordan would receive the West Bank and Egypt the Gaza Strip, and 5 years later the area would be handed over to the Palestinians. In Jerusalem it is asked whether this was also the official Egyptian clarification to the United States. It is also said here that the United States has suggested to the Israeli Cabinet a reply formula. The Israeli reply does not conform to the U.S. formula, as there are differences of opinion between the two governments. Hence, it is only natural that the Americans are not satisfied, a senior political source told me. Fundamentally, however, the source said, the U.S. reaction is positive.

FURTHER QUESTIONS EXPECTED DURING MONDALE VISIT

TA211552Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 21 Jun 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Government circles in Jerusalem today estimated that the United States will, after the dialog with Egypt comes to an end, address questions of clarification to Israel. This will happen during Mondale's visit in about 10 days. The circles said that so far the Americans have not asked for additional clarifications to those given verbally by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Ambassador Simha Dinitz. Our political correspondent reports that the accepted evaluation is that Vice President Mondale will, during his visit, ask for various clarifications on Israel's position.

BEGIN, AS-SADAT MAY MEET IN NEW YORK IN NOVEMBER

TA220842Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jun pp 1, 7 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President as-Sadat may appear on the same stage on 2 November in New York when they are awarded the "Family of Man" prize by the U.S. Council of Christian Churches.

Begin and As-Sadat have agreed to go to New York for the presentation of the prize, which is given for a contribution to the advancement of mankind. The two were chosen as winners of the respected prize in a poll carried out in 1,700 U.S. churches.

It is possible that President Carter will present the prize to the prime minister and the Egyptian president.

The presentation ceremony will take place at the Hilton Hotel in the presence of 3,000 churchmen from around the United States and senior members of the administration. It is conceivable that the presence of Begin and As-Sadat in the United States at the same time might be taken advantage of to arrange a meeting between the two.

SHARON PROPOSES MILITARY-ECONOMIC ALLIANCE WITH EGYPT

TA211413Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jun 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon proposes that the Israeli cabinet adopt a new formula in which it would declare its readiness to undertake a military-economic alliance with Egypt, and that only within the framework of such a treaty would any further Israeli proposals, beyond those already submitted to Egypt in the Israeli peace plan, be presented for discussion between the parties.

A proposal in that spirit will probably be raised in the cabinet during the discussion of the Israeli answer to the last Egyptian message, which makes a renewal of the direct talks between the parties contingent on the presentation of new Israeli ideas.

This correspondent has learned that the subject has already been presented to the prime minister, and a hint was given in Sunday's cabinet meeting when the minister of agriculture raised a far-reaching proposal, according to which Israel would first reply to the Egyptian message that was transmitted several weeks ago, and only afterwards would a reply be made to the two questions submitted by the United States.

The military-economic alliance formula between Israel and Egypt is presented by Sharon as a possible way out of the maze in which the negotiations have become entangled, and it is described as an ultimate state of relations, which should be sought in stages. Sharon contends that the process could begin by signing a formal peace contract, after which both sides should develop common elements that would guarantee a state of relations in which the danger of war would disappear (similar to the model of the Common Market countries). A military-economic alliance of this sort is likely, according to this conception, to bridge the gap between a formal and a real peace, and grant the two countries a fool-proof capability to defend themselves.

In return for such an alliance, Israel would refrain from presenting any territorial demands, and would insist on one concession only: the guaranteeing of a situation that would free Israel from the fear of a military conflagration.

Sharon, who voted in the cabinet for the prime minister's proposal, claimed at that cabinet meeting that the adoption of a formula for an answer to the Egyptian message is to be preferred and, hence, should also precede an answer to the United States. The transmission of such an answer should be accompanied by a dramatic gesture, such as delegating a senior Israeli personality (in uniform), equipped with directives to discuss the subject with the Egyptians.

CABINET MINISTERS TO DISCUSS ANSWER TO AL-JAMASI

TA211417Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Jun 78 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpts] A first meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman--after the cabinet and Knesset vote on the answers to the United States, and the subsequent internal storm--is to take place in Jerusalem today, in the context of consultations among senior cabinet members on pressing political issues.

Political differences are still liable to pop up in the consultations to be held in Jerusalem this morning--with the participation of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan--since the chief subject will be the answer the cabinet still owes to Egyptian War Minister al-Jamasi. At the time--before adopting the decision on the answers to the Americans--Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman proposed a draft for an answer which included, among other things, examining the possibility of an alliance between Israel and Egypt. It may be assumed that the answer to Al-Jamasi will now be coordinated, at least in substance, with the general lines of the policy of the Israeli cabinet as it is reflected in the written and oral answers to the United States.

DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN AL-JAMASI, WEIZMAN DISCLOSED

TA220553Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Knesset Member Pessah Grupper has said that every 2 or 3 days Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman converses by telephone with Egyptian War Minister 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, and they exchange views. Grupper was speaking at a political discussion at the Liberal Party center last night.

Minister Yizhaq Moda'i said at the discussion that President as-Sadat had endorsed in principle, as far back as in the talks in Jerusalem, the basic ideas of Israel's peace plan as a basis for negotiations.

WEIZMAN'S POSITION FOLLOWING CABINET DISPUTE DISCUSSED

TA211639Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 78 p 9 TA

[Ze'ev Schiff commentary]

[Excerpts] Last Friday the defense minister was 54 years old. Several of Weizman's friends, who are also his advisers, joined with newsmen in telling him that the most fitting birthday present was his success in rallying such a considerable number of ministers around his proposal on the U.S. questions. They estimated that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan would continue to have a small minority for his proposal and that even if the prime minister managed to mobilize a majority for his own proposal, Weizman's would only fall by a hair.

On his birthday Weizman had good reason to be happy. The first political struggle in which he participated as defense minister was showing good signs. A number of ministers had already assured him of their support, and others were talking ambiguously.

Today everyone knows that this assessment of his situation was faulty. Advisers and commentators alike did not properly appreciate Menahem Begin's maneuvering ability. The prime minister shut himself up in his home not because he was sick or weak, but to prepare for a fight.

To Menahem Begin this was not only a struggle for his autonomy plan, but also an answer to the challenge on his leadership. That was also the main reason why he so easily succeeded in overcoming Weizman, in pushing him into a corner and in isolating him. Even if any Likud minister thought of supporting Weizman's proposal, he must have reneged at the last moment on understanding that Begin regarded it as a test to the principle of leadership.

Weizman failed, but it would be a mistake to see in this a victory of Moshe Dayan's proposal. A sentence which looks like a key for the purpose of making Israel's intentions vague (at the end of the 5-year autonomy period the nature of the relations between the parties will be discussed and agreed upon) was taken from Dayan's original proposal. But, attention should be paid to the fact that the heart of Dayan's proposal was voided of content: his proposal to decide now on a number of vital subjects, without proposing the crucial decision on them to the future.

Dayan proposed that six issues be decided at present. This is the formula of his proposal. In the negotiations on the introduction of the administrative autonomy a settlement should be reached on: A) IDF presence in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and the responsibility for safeguarding the borders; B) the absence of other military forces, such as of Jordan, in the West Bank and in Gaza; C) the prevention of the establishment of a Palestinian state; D) the Israeli right to purchase land and settle in those areas; E) free traffic between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Israel for Arab and Israeli inhabitants; F) the operational meaning of the concept "Israel is responsible for maintaining security and public order."

Hence, if one talks of the victory of one proposal, it was the victory of Begin's proposal. This proposal is making Israel's peace and autonomy plan even more vague, and it will now be harder to convince any one that we are not trying to avoid discussing the ultimate objective of the settlement. The cabinet decision assumes, for some reason, that it will be possible to postpone discussing the future of the territories and the relations with their inhabitants until after peace is reached, plus 5 years after an administrative autonomy has been instituted. The autonomy, which is presented in Begin's plan as an ideal solution, will be instituted only after peace is accomplished. It does not say peace with whom. With Egypt only? With Egypt and with Jordan? Perhaps the aim is peace with all the confrontation states?

One other strange thing: Whereas Weizman's proposal, which mentions a readiness to discuss the "permanent status" has been rejected, Begin's autonomy plan contains a clause which awards Israel the right to discuss and demand in the future Israeli sovereignty over the territories; that is to say, a permanent status.

No wonder, therefore, that people in Weizman's office and in the defense establishment view this merely as a tactical failure by the defense minister. They are convinced that before too long the cabinet will be forced to discuss his proposal and approach again in one way or another. Indeed, if one is to judge by public reaction, Weizman has not been defeated in the long run. His standing in the public has been strengthened and it has a good chance of being reinforced even more if he holds his tongue and refrains from angry outbursts.

But while Weizman's image is getting stronger in the public, the right wing in Herut thinks differently. They claim that Weizman deviated considerably from the Herut platform concerning Eretz Yisra'el. This is apparently the process which Weizman is undergoing now. It shouldn't be forgotten, however, that even the leader of the movement, Menahem Begin, deviated from his former ways and principles by his willingness, in the peace plan, to forego the imposition of Israeli sovereignty over all the areas of Eretz Yisra'el.

LIBERAL PARTY DISCUSSES WEIZMAN, PEACE PROSPECTS

TA211908Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Jun 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich today referred to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's proposed reply to the questions asked by the United States. At a rally of the Liberal Party center in the Likud, Mr Ehrlich said that the defense minister's proposal was different in semantics rather than substance from the proposal accepted by the cabinet. Correspondent Sara Avivi has returned with a report from the party center's meeting:

The political debate was the main topic in the meeting of the Liberal Party center. Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich, who opened the debate, opted to refer to the differences of opinion which had occurred in the cabinet over Israel's replies to the United States even before he was asked about this by his colleagues in the center. [begin recording]

[Ehrlich] The defense minister had a proposal for a reply. It appeared partly reasonable and partly unreasonable. In the final analysis, if I have to determine today between it and the one passed, there is more a semantic than a substantive difference. We thought that the prime minister's proposal answered everything, more than did the defense minister's. In fact the minister of defense did not propose it formally afterward, but withdrew it. I did not hear any of the remarks attributed to the defense minister. I heard that he denied them. I am not a teacher and I do not give out good marks for behavior; I do not discuss behavior. I suggest to the center that this should not be the issue. [end recording]

[Avivi] As for the future, Mr Ehrlich determined that it would be difficult to go to As-Sadat with any further concessions, since we proposed the maximum at the beginning. In an interruption from the floor Yedidiya Be'ery asked if we had not made a mistake in so doing, but the finance minister answered, no, otherwise As-Sadat would have rejected our program out of hand and we would have been lusters after territory, not peace.

Another minister, a member of the Liberal Party, Minister Yizhaq Moda'i, criticized the United States for making difficulties instead of putting pressure on Egypt. [begin recording]

[Moda'i] Since it is impossible to achieve a program which will divide us, they are asking questions to divide us; questions which are less concrete than Talmudic ones. What will be, if, and but.... These questions are intended to do two things: to divide us as though this was a proposal for a real peace program; and, if we do not divide, to make us take more steps forward and, who knows, maybe it will also happen that this cabinet will fall and a cabinet headed by the Alinement will be founded, whose point of origin, naturally, would be beyond the starting point of the Israeli peace program. [end recording]

[Avivi] During the debate, the various center members voiced protest at the fact that arguments from the cabinet sessions are being leaked to the press and thus causing damage. The debate in the Liberal Party's center will end with concluding remarks on the political issue by Minister Moshe Nissim.

[Announcer] The Liberal Center's debates are continuing.

HA'AREZ DISCUSSES WEIZMAN'S WEST BANK POLICY

TA211743Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 78 p 9 TA

[Yehuda Litani commentary]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who has now been put in the focus of public attention because of his positions on the issue of the Israeli answers to the United States is implementing his positions in dealing with the administered territories in the framework of his job as minister of defense. It is now a full year since he took office and it can be said that since June 1977, 'Ezer Weizman, in addition to running correct and relaxed daily life in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has been trying to maintain a political foundation, which will one day take over from the military government.

'Ezer Weizman, although he seldom made visits to or toured the administered territories (less than his predecessors Moshe Dayan and Shim'on Peres, mainly because of his involvement in the negotiations with Egypt and afterward his activity in southern Lebanon) has changed customs which were practiced until he took office. The defense minister emphatically opposed expelling the inhabitants of the West Bank to Jordan and during his time in office so far none have been expelled from the West Bank.

'Ezer Weizman is opposed to blowing up houses and so far (apart from blowing up a house in East Jerusalem, which was a mistake) no houses in the West Bank have been blown up during his time in office. It was the minister of defense who ordered that an investigation be held in the affair of the handgrenades which were thrown in the school in Bayt Jala after a chain of events was publicized in the foreign and Israeli press. After that, in agreement with the chief of staff, he ordered that David Hago'el be removed from office as the commander of the Judaea and Samaria District.

'Ezer Weizman admits the great sensitivity prevailing in the world, and in the United States in particular, on the matter of the settlements and the land on which they are located. He is opposed to the Gush Emunim view favoring establishment of settlements in every place possible in Judaea and Samaria and, in the program he submitted to the cabinet at the beginning of this year, he proposed the establishment of six large towns in western Samaria and the greater Jerusalem area. The defense minister is opposed to taking over or appropriating private lands belonging to inhabitants of the West Bank and he proposes the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank only on government or stony land.

'Ezer Weizman has from the beginning been opposed to the establishment of the settlement in Shilo and after members of the Shilo nucleus moved into the area without cabinet permission, he constantly opposed their remaining there. Recently the minister of defence has been trying to persuade the members of the Shilo nucleus to move somewhere else in the neighborhood (near Shilo). 'Ezer Weizman favors enlarging existing settlements and a concentrated effort to establish large settlements, not small and scattered ones.

What is the objective of the defense minister's current policy in the administered territories? In the view of those close to 'Ezer Weizman, the objective is to prepare an organizational foundation and a convenient background for the Israeli cabinet's autonomy program. Beyond this, it is known that the defense minister is more flexible than other ministers in the Likud regarding the price to be paid for genuine peace and it appears, according to his latest proposal for a reply to the United States, that he would be prepared to consider a solution on the basis of the cabinet's autonomy program, but different from it in more than one detail (with more emphasis on Egypt's role in any negotiations.)

WEIZMAN WANTS CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION IN QIRYAT ARBA'

TA220601Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The defense minister supports the idea of establishing an independent municipal authority in Qiryat Arba' that would be independent of the military government. The heads of Qiryat Arba' were informed of this during his visit there the day before yesterday.

Correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the interior minister will soon submit for cabinet decision the issue of establishing independent local councils in settlements beyond the green line, including Qiryat Arba' and Yamit. Likewise, a proposal has been formulated to establish a municipal court in Qiryat Arba' and the subject is in the final examination stage by the government legal adviser. Coordinator of activities in the territories, Major General Orli, said that his office has already prepared the administrative orders for this purpose.

In answer to a request by the heads of the Qirya to appropriate more land in its vicinity, Major General Orli said that this would be done only if it would be imperative for continuing the development of Qiryat Arba'.

Today, the military administration in Hebron will pull down the building, erected during Jordanian rule, which houses the public services. The building is near the ruins of the Avraham Avinu Synagogue in the center of the city. The security forces have been put on alert in anticipation of the demolition operation.

Our correspondent has further learned that the heads of Qiryat Arba' asked the defense minister to change the existing arrangements at the Makhpela Cave. Weizman replied that he did not wish to erode the relations with the Arab inhabitants in Hebron and that he did not support changing the existing arrangements at the Makhpela Cave.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING TO BUILD AROUND QIRYAT ARBA'

TA212008Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The Ministry of Housing has decided to complete the basic work in the area known as (Giv'at Haja'bara), near Qiryat Arba', toward allocating 43 plots in the framework of the "build your own home" program. This was decided on a joint tour made by the director of the Ministry of Housing, Shelomo Avni, and the coordinator of activities in the territories, Maj Gen Avraham Orli. Our correspondent Schiffer points out that from the legal aspect the IDF has already taken over the hill but there are four houses in the area which belong to the Ja'bari family and a vineyard of 700 vines. Because of this, the implementation of the "build your own home" program has been held up. However, our correspondent says that now, after the defense minister's visit, it has been decided to complete the development activities.

Correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the Ministry of Housing has also authorized the beginning of a commercial center in Qiryat Arba'.

PERES INTERVIEWED ON U.S. REACTION, CABINET POLITICS

TA2120427 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 21 Jun 78 TA

[Interview with MK Shim'on Peres by Elimelekh Ram, Dan Raviv and Nahman Shay on Moqed program--live]

[Text] [Ram] Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Our guest in the Moqed studio this evening is the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres. With me in the studio are my colleagues Dan Raviv and Nahman Shay. MK Peres, in the Mabat news program at 2100 we announced that the United States this evening expressed regret over Israel's answers. It said it regretted that Israel did not respond fully to the administration's questions. What is your reaction?

[Peres] I do not think this is any surprise. It was to be expected and we must not forget that we invited questions to which it is doubtful whether we knew the answers, because we had had an opportunity to deal with a declaration of principles and not to get into a detailed debate.

[Question] When you say that we invited questions, could we have avoided inviting questions? How could this have been done?

[Answer] Had we continued to conduct negotiations over only a declaration of principles, and here I mean five principles, we would have remained in the sphere of principle and would not have moved over to debating the operative details with the United States and Egypt.

[Question] Sir, the negotiations over the declaration of principles did not, in fact, take place, and there are those who say that this was Egypt's fault.

[Amswer] Now I--even if I agree that it was Egypt's fault altogether, in the middle of negotiations there are no accusations, there are negotiations. The matter of principles, in my view, ran aground over two resolutions: Resolution No 242, that is, what is called the principle of withdrawal or of partition, and so on, and the second resolution is the Aswan text regarding Palestinian participation in determining their own future. Here the obstructive clause was the proposal to hold a referendum. Since we opposed the referendum, and the Americans then said, suggest something, the matter stuck on this point.

[Question] Mr Peres, in view of the political situation and all this means regarding what is happening in the cabinet, are you building on the fact that this is the political issue which will topple the cabinet and that it will not be able to complete its remaining 3 years?

[Answer] The issue is too serious to be discussed in terms of toppling the cabinet or a cabinet decision. I think that we may be facing the most important decision since the establishment of the state. The opportunity was created. I hope we will be able to take advantage of it, to exhaust it or on the other hand, we will miss it. The real problem is Israel's future and Israel's policy. The matter of the cabinet is only instrumental.

[Question] Mr Peres, we may come to this issue later. However, it is no secret that you have said, both in public and closed circles, that there is a chance the cabinet will soon fall. We would like you to discuss this issue. What, in your view, can topple the cabinet?

[Answer] The cabinet itself. It is doing its best to topple itself. In everything it touches it really has outstanding lack of success, and that is an understatement, whether it is in the economic or political sphere, or the sphere of its functioning--its size, its manners and so on.

[Question] Mr Peres, one reason for the fall of the Alinement cabinet was the bad relations between the Alinement members, particularly within the cabinet. In your view, can such a bad system of relations also overthrow the present cabinet?

[Answer] Your assumption needs proof in both cases. First, that there was really such a bad system of relations. If you compare this with what is happening in the cabinet today, I think that there was almost harmony among us.

[Question] The assumption was, in fact, proved on 17 May 1977, Mr Peres.

[Answer] Yes, the result, but not the reasons. You do not know what reasons led to 17 May. I would say, according to the surveys I have seen, first and foremost, inflation, and then the scandals which occurred.

[Question] As for the system of relations in this cabinet, Minister Weizman's position and the latest events?

[Answer] First of all, this cabinet is marked by the fact that it does not function as a body. You know what made a much greater impression on me than anything in the press lately was that, in fact, the prime minister tried to propose a program to the President of the United States without telling the cabinet members about it. In my view this is something much more grave, that is, in addition to the bad system of relations, the cabinet is in fact not functioning as a cabinet. I also remember that the Likud posters on the eve of the election said: We will bring in relations of friendship and honor and so on. Apparently it did not work out that way.

[Question] Mr Peres, in that same cabinet, serving in a very senior post--that of foreign minister--is your colleague of many years, Moshe Dayan. How do you explain the phenomenon of Moshe Dayan in a cabinet headed by Mr Begin?

[Answer] First of all, I do not think I am the one who has to explain this. I think that the man who ought to explain this is Moshe Dayan, and he has done so. He said that he preferred Begin with Dayan to Begin without Dayan.

[Question] How do you, for all that, explain it? You know the man.

[Answer] I do not occupy myself in explaining people, neither friends nor enemies; that is not my job.

[Question] Mr Peres, you are meeting with various personalities from the current regime. Among others, you met with 'Ezer Weizman. Was any possibility of founding a future alternative coalition discussed in your meeting with him?

[Answer] No. In our talks we have discussed the political situation and the security situation, which is beyond parties. All in all, I believe that the parties are very important, but the state is more important. Naturally we discuss the political situation, not only with 'Ezer, but with other people as well and from all directions and all sides. The state is standing at a crossroads. Let us not ignore this.

[Question] In this connection, the historic alliance with the MAFDAL: Do you expect this alliance to be renewed? Do you expect that such an alliance, if it is renewed, would allow the possibility of another coalition composition?

[Answer] I certainly expect this alliance to be renewed, and in fact it has not ended, because if alliances between the parties were only on the level of the top ranks of the cabinet, they would peel off like decorations. But, the kibbutzim of the MAFDAL and our kibbutzim are in Bet She'an and in the Jordan Valley and we have a common history and these people must link up; we have a deep relation to tradition, together with a deep relation to creation and labor. We have never said that anyone who wants to join the Labor Party must become an "apikores" [a nonreligious Jew] just as I do not believe that anyone who joins the MAFDAL must be bourgeois or extremist or nationalist.

[Question] Are you now working to bring the MAFDAL close to you again?

[Answer] I, at any rate, and other colleagues as well, are doing the best we can to renew these links, because deep down we all aspire to the nation being united to the maximum extent possible.

[Question] Mr Peres, renewal of links sounds nice, but do you believe that today, with the Alinement as it is, it will be possible to find a bridge between the political platform of the MAFDAL and that of the Alignement, of the Labor Party, even if at this stage we are not talking about its political future?

[Answer] Yesterday I heard one of the young people, Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, one of the MAFDAL's leaders, say to me, for example--he said it in a certain forum--that he rejects the annexation of Judaea and Samaria. Altogether, we must make a distinction between the position of the MAFDAL...

[Question] Is he also prepared to make territorial concessions, such as those you are prepared...

[Answer] I am not prepared to say more than what I heard. I know that the MAFDAL position is not necessarily in favor of the annexation of Judaea and Samaria and I know that the MAFDAL, along with us, passed the matter of partition, in spite of the fact that their position on the partition was different from David Ben-Gurion's.

[Question] Mr Peres, do I understand correctly that there are debates on the basic lines of a cabinet with the participation of you and the MAFDAL?

[Answer] You are quicker and more alert than I and you are ahead of me. We are discussing political matters. To the best of my knowledge there has not been any discussion, in any forum, on anything beyond policy.

[Question] Mr Peres, what was the objective of your meeting a few weeks ago with the top ranks of the DMC?

[Answer] The top ranks of the DMC--there are several top ranks in the DMC.

[Question] Let us say, with members of the DMC, central members of the DMC?

[Answer] I met several times with various members of the DMC and particularly to exchange views. For example, when I returned from Salzburg, members of the DMC, or the DMC leaders, invited me to tell them about the talks there. From time to time we meet to discuss both the political issue and other issues we have in common, just as members of the Knesset, beyond the party divisions, should do.

[Question] Who are they? Members of Shinui, Me'ir 'Amit's people, Yadin's people? With whom?

[Answer] I hope you will not be disappointed if I say almost all of them.

[Question] I would be very happy. Why should I be disappointed?

[Answer] Good. So, with both members of Shinui and Me'ir 'Amit's people. Today for example, I spoke with MK 'Aqiva Nof, why not?

[Question] Mr Peres, from the picture of the DMC--from your viewpoint--the figure of Me'ir 'Amit appears interesting, since he left you at a very, very critical moment for the Labor Party. Do you think, or want, or aim at him acting as a future bridgeheard between part of the DMC and the Labor Party? Do you see him in this way?

[Answer] I will not hide the fact that I regret those members of the Labor Party who left the party and moved over to the DMC. In fact, what is emerging today, in the political picture, is that every vote given to the DMC in fact was transferred to the Likud.

[Question] Do you see Me'ir 'Amitas the man who is likely to bring the DMC, or parts of it, back to the Labor Party?

[Answer] I have no intention of intervening in what happens to the DMC and I mean this for all members of the DMC. If what was published in the paper today is correct, and I assume it is, that five of the DMC members supported the Likud, in fact, the rest--or, how many more are there, nine, 10 members--have no more parliamentary importance, because then the Likud is a complete majority and from the parliamentary aspect the DMC from this moment has stopped being a force. In public, of course, the situation of the DMC is even more difficult.

[Question] If there is a split in the DMC, if matters reach the point where those five leave it because of other circumstances, would you want to see the dove wing of the DMC with you in the Labor Party?

[Answer] I would like to see both wings, why only one? But I do not just look at it from a labor point of view. From the parliamentary viewpoint and the party aspect I would not like to see the DMC split. A group of 15 united members of Knesset, who support territorial compromise--and we have another 3 years until the next election--is more important than splitting into two groups which would, in fact, put an end to any possibility in the Knesset of changing policy. I am not necessarily speaking about cabinet changes.

[Question] Mr Peres, I am caught by something you said: you would like to see them not, actually, in the Labor Party. Do you mean that you are trying to build another political force which will find its place at the center of the political map, which will include different branches from different parties?

[Answer] I do not want to seem so pretentious as to tell the DMC, or members of the DMC, to do this or that. I have a power of attorney to speak in the name of the Labor Party. That is a decision for members of the DMC and I must be both cautious and responsible with words and with the honor of people from other parties.

[Question] Mr Peres, you quite severely criticized the DMC decision to enter the cabinet. One of the reasons given by those who supported joining the cabinet was: We can have much more influence from within than from without. You, in fact, agree with them now.

[Answer] I agree that in entering, they in fact lost all influence both on the outside and inside. I do not know any issue on which the DMC had any influence. I know that on almost all issues the DMC, in spite of itself, supported cabinet positions which did not appear reasonable to it.

[Question] Do you, sir, see any possibility of establishing a minority cabinet to replace the existing cabinet?

[Answer] I do not think in terms of a minority or majority cabinet. I think and am convinced that within the present Knesset there is a majority in favor of taking steps which would permit the negotiations with Egypt to continue as well as a debate on the future of Judaea and Samaria. In my estimation, there are almost 70 Knesset members who completely reject the Herut position. What is happening in this cabinet is that the Herut is dictating its platform to the rest of the partners.

[Question] How urgent do you regard your dealing with this issue, because, as quoted at the meeting at MK Eban's home last week, you said, if this is correct, that a replacement of the ruling power and the establishment of a cabinet headed by the ruling power and the establishment of a cabinet headed by the Alinement are matters of months, weeks, or even days. Did you say this? And, if so, on what basis?

[Answer] First of all, I did not say that. Many of these publications have Value Added Tax.

[Question] What did you say, Mr Peres, on this point?

[Answer] That was not an organized debate, but an entirely coincidental discussion. I said that, in my view, the cabinet is eroding its own credit, is leading the country into a deadend on foreign affairs and security and toward galloping inflation in economic affairs. That it is increasingly finishing itself. That is my view today as well, the greatest enemy of this cabinet is the cabinet itself.

[Question] In May 1977 the public removed you from office. This is a fact. Why, today, do you have to come back in fact? Why do you think that the nation should give you back the authority to rule?

[Answer] We are not talking about returning to power. We are talking about returning to a political path that will permit the State of Israel to preserve a system of relations with the United States which will give us weapons and money, which will permit holding negotiations with the Arabs, with the Jordanians--and we gained with Jordan, now, with whom have we lost? Let us say, 10 of the seats we lost went to the DMC. I do not think that anyone who voted for the DMC, or an appreciable section of them, would vote for them again now. The hopes sunk in the Likud; very many people in the country, in the quarters, in the development towns, thought: The Likud will rise to power; right away there will be houses and buildings and inflation will be stopped and price increases will go down. Today they see that these were election eve fairytales.

[Question] But I am speaking about you now, not about the Likud. Have you in fact prepared yourselves over this year, have you built yourselves up so that you will again be able to run the country?

[Answer] The Labor Party has existed for 30 years from a national point of view. It has a reservoir of people, of generations, of experience. This is not a mushroom which sprang up overnight or over a year. What does that mean, preparing ourselves? Wherever you turn--to the kibbutzim, to the working intellectuals, to the workers' committees, to the Knesset--this party has a plentitude of people. It made several mistakes. It was punished for those mistakes. The moral is not to make the mistakes we made. What does that mean, we have to prepare ourselves. Have we just been born today?

[Question] I will tell you what the question means, because, among other things, there are complaints that your party has not changed much. In fact, the composition of the top ranks has not changed. When we hear about meetings, the same people who acted before, are the people who are acting now, at the top of the party. Relations within the party have not changed much, nor do all the relations within the Alinement appear to have been changed radically. Why, then, do you believe you have made yourselves capable again?

[Answer] You know, sometimes it seems to me that it is not that the situation has not changed, but that those reporting on the situation have not changed. They are reporting just as they have habitually been doing for years.

[Question] Maybe you would take advantage of the opportunity to explain what has changed?

[Answer] Certainly. Over the last 30 years the leadership of the Alinement has changed six times. If you look at the Herut, have leaderships changed there six times? It has had the same leadership for 30 years. If you look even at age, then, let us consider the aspect of age and disregard any other advantages. From the aspect of party chairmen, I am the youngest man in the Knesset. We have young Knesset members. We have people in the academy and we have people in the workers' committees. We have never been a monolithic party. We have never had one leader and the whole public said amen. The historic MAPAI was always split into 60 percent, 40 percent, 55 percent. We have a democratic party, not a party of yes men. First of all, we have no leaders, we have electees.

[Question] You have chairmen.

[Answer] Chairmen--that is an elected post. I believe that today, in terms of unity, the Labor Party is in one of the best seasons it has known since 1932 or 1933.

[Question] Maybe because there is nothing over which to split? Maybe it is because when you are in the opposition the differences of opinion are naturally less?

[Answer] Just a minute, you are now changing your view. I agree. Let us say that this is one of the reasons, but the arguments are generally ideological. We have a kibbutz movement, with three lines of thought. The splits were never actually within the cabinet, but between different ideological groups.

[Question] Mr Peres, with your permission, I would like to move over to the political debate in the Knesset this week. When we heard President as-Sadat's reaction yesterday to the answers given by the Israeli Cabinet this week, my impression was that his reaction was much more moderate than the criticism you levelled in the political debate. Did you make any sort of mistake?

[Answer] I did not make a mistake. I think that As-Sadat quite enjoys the unsuccessful way in which we are playing the game with the United States. He feels all the time that he is gaining points and gaining public opinion. I regret this. I would like to see this cabinet win the game, because this is government--the Government of Israel. Because of this I understand As-Sadat.

Now I repeat that my view is as follows: I think that it is indeed difficult to find a solution in Judaea and Samaria. But, if we had come to a geographical solution in Sinai and a declaration of principles, and I emphasize the words declaration of principles, with regard to Judaea and Samaria, we could have advanced beyond achieving understanding with Egypt and we could have got Egypt out of the circle of countries who are preparing for a constant war against us.

[Question] Mr Peres, if you were in the cabinet today would you have been a supporter of 'Ezer Weizman's proposal?

[Answer] I would oppose the foreign minister's proposal to move from a declaration of principles to a debate on the details. I think this is a mistake. Even if we had put forward 70 reasonable answers to the two questions, they would have gone on asking us more and more questions. I do not understand this process. Why, instead of conducting comprehensive, verbal negotiations with Egypt, do we have to get into a debate over details? We will not get out of this.

[Question] Mr Peres, in the Knesset you gave details from your February meeting with President as-Sadat in Salzburg. Spokesmen from the Likud even accused you in the Knesset of being As-Sadat's spokesman in the Knesset. Do you...

[Answer] You know, when I returned from Salzburg, I did not say I was a happy man. Someone else said that.

[Question] Mr Peres, are the contacts between you and President as-Sadat continuing via various mediators such as, perhaps, Mr Kreisky?

[Answer] Yes, frankly, there is a set of party links between us. I also published this after the visit, that links were established.

[Question] When was the last link? When was the latest information brought? What was between you and President as-Sadat?

[Answer] The last link was at the beginning of the week, when I asked for permission to publish part of the contents of our talk.

[Question] Did you ask for permission from President as-Sadat?

[Answer] Yes, because it had been agreed between us that the talk would not be for publication. Since I wanted to publish part of it, I had to have the agreement of the person with whom I spoke.

[Question] What are the ways of communicating with As-Sadat? How do you get his permission?

[Answer] I am not sure that this is such a good topic for television. It is also not so important. After all, it is a technical matter.

[Question] Is political information also passed between you via these mediators?

[Answer] Generally, no. We are not conducting political negotiations with Egypt. There is only one cabinet and it is holding the negotiations.

[Question] It seems to me that you are still holding an open ticket to Cairo for a meeting with President as-Sadat. When do you intend to go?

[Answer] This is not a question of a charter flight. I need to consider the timing very carefully from the political aspect and if there is such a trip I would like it to do some good.

[Question] What good would your trip for a meeting with President as-Sadat do when the political negotiations are being held as they are? What good could such a meeting do?

[Answer] This is why I am not going right now. But, if it becomes possible to make a proposal, or to check an idea unofficially, then it would be worth going.

[Question] Are you waiting for such a trip to be laid on you by the prime minister?

[Answer] No. I am in the opposition and I am not expecting any tasks to be laid on me by the prime minister.

[Question] MK Eban, as a member of the opposition, went to the United States to explain Israel, and you were not opposed to this, if I am not mistaken.

[Answer] No, I was not opposed. I am only saying that I would be surprised if the prime minister did this and I, myself, have no plans to suggest such a thing.

[Question] Mr Peres, in the wake of President as-Sadat's initiative and the latest political developments in the area, will you initiate a political debate in the Labor Party's institutions to reexamine the components of the security-political platform?

[Answer] I am certainly prepared to do this if anyone wants, but the picture is so clear. Look, many people ask us, here, you met with the Jordanians and held negotiations, what came of it? There is calm along the Jordan. What did Israel lose by it? There are people who say, don't believe the Arabs. First of all, I believe in Israel, I believe in the strength of the IDF. But if I look at the policy of open bridges; it has been 11 years with relative calm and passage of people. It is not something which just happens by itself.

[Question] Mr Peres, do you not fear that a political debate within the Labor Party could sharpen the relations with MAPAM and cause the Alinement to disband?

[Answer] No. No. No. The party is used to living in accordance with the majority's decision. No other way is possible. If anyone wants to clarify, I am not afraid of any clarification. On the contrary, I regard this as something fruitful and positive and I would certainly support holding such a clarification.

[Question] Mr Peres, in view of the political positions of the Labor Party and MAPAM, do you think you will go to the next election with the Alinement as it is, or do you want to separate, or do you want full unity?

[Answer] I do not accept your formulation. There are no political positions of the Labor Party and political positions of MAPAM. There is the political platfrom of the Alinement. Yes, go ahead.

[Question] Will that platform also stand in the election, in the future, in accordance with the new circumstances created? Or, will you change that platform?

[Answer] If there is a need to change, we will, frankly, change it. I do not see any difficulty in this.

[Question] Mr Peres, you say, if there is a need to change. Do you think that, after As-Sadat's initiative, after November 1977, there is room to think about changing the platform?

[Answer] Why should we discuss things theoretically?

[Question] It is not theoretical.

[Answer] No, if you will permit me, I will say two sentences. In what concerns Sinai, the Begin cabinet gave back the whole of Sinai, up to the 1967 border. I think it has already created a precedent with regard to the Golan Heights. You know, it is possible to make an omelette from eggs, but you cannot make eggs from an omelette.

[Question] What do you mean about the Golan Heights, Mr Peres?

[Answer] This precedent of Sinai, I very much fear, will arouse the demand from the Arabs that we do something on the Golan Heights which I oppose, and which we are not capable of doing--what we did in Sinai on one short evening in Jerusalem. Now, with regard to Judaea and Samaria: I accept, as does the Alinement platform--I am speaking in its name--that the solution in Judaea and Samaria can be achieved in two tactics. Tactics of an interim settlement--this could be federational, federative, confederative, political, any name you want, and at the end of a period of time, we are interested in territorial compromise--not because we want to give in to the Americans and not because we want to give in to the Arabs, but because we want to guarantee that the State of Israel will be a Jewish state. We cannot hold on to a million Arabs who, from the aspect of numbers, are not static, and a million Arabs who do not want us.

[Question] Mr Peres, following the remarks which are credited to 'Ezer Weizman at the end of the cabinet session, assuming they are correct, in your view, are we moving toward war?

[Answer] Look, I will be very cautious in such statements. I would not want to use such severe and far-reaching statements. But--there is no point in concealing it--in the absence of an agreement, the alternative is to open the military option. We are not living a naive life in the Middle East. We know what happens in a time when there is an agreement and in a time when there is not an agreement. And, in the absence of an agreement, the pan-Arab coalition will be renewed. They have arms without end, they have money without limit, hatred is not lacking and (?of course) a differenct process will be created.

[Question] Mr Peres, sometimes we come close to the end of these programs and ask those being interviewed whether they consider themselves candidates for the premiership. We do not have to ask you because you have already set yourself up in this candidacy, do you think.

[Answer] I was elected for this.

[Question] You were elected. Do you think that you will be the prime minister of Israel?

[Answer] I hope that the Labor Party will retake the wheel of leadership, because this is a party which is really practical, experienced, not declarative, not demagogic, not with a continuity of lying. It has the suitable people, the suitable experience and if the party chooses me to stand at the head of the government, I will do so willingly.

[Question] Mr Peres, my friend Dan and I covered the party's congress on the eve of the election. We have memories. You, I imagine, have traumatic memories. The question is, how will you prevent cracks in the top of the Labor Party? As you know, a book is to appear shortly, a biography or an autobiography of Mr Rabin. What is known is that the affair of the slanders in the Labor Party may be renewed.

[Answer] Not on my part. I will read the book with interest, but I have no intention at all of reacting to it.

[Question] I thank you very much. We have to end here. Thank you very much Mr Shim'on Peres, thank you very much Dan Raviv and Nahman Shay. Good evening.

INDIA

TREATMENT OF MINORITIES IN BANGLADESH PROTESTED

BK211600Y Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 13 Jun 78 p 1 ...

[By staff reporter]

[Text] The Government of India has expressed grave concern over the malicious anti-Indian propaganda and various incidents in parts of Bangladesh, including Dacca. India's concern was conveyed by Prime Minister Morarji Desai in a telephone conversation he had with Bangladesh President Gen Ziaur Rahman prior to his trip [to Europe and the United States].

The prime minister told Ziaur: During your trip to India you gave assurances that arrangements would be made to insure the security of the "minorities" in Bangladesh. But reports received here indicate that some disturbances have taken place in Dacca at the instigation of communal elements. From past experience, we have learned to be vigilant concerning matters of this sort, he added. Ziaur assured the prime minister that he would look into the matter.

Prior to the prime minister's conversation with Ziaur Rahman, reports reaching Delhi of such incidents in Bangladesh prompted External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to order his ministry to investigate. The Bangladesh high commissioner in Delhi was called to the Foreign Office and was handed a protest note.

The note said that improvement of relations between the two countries had been stressed during Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman's visit to Delhi toward the end of last year. But during the election, speeches were continually made against India and the minorities in Bangladesh. Those speeches muddied the waters by unnecessarily pulling India into the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

The note said that incidents had taken place in different parts of Bangladesh the consequences of which could be serious. They could create alarm and suspicion and inflame the passion of the Indian public. Thus, India is earnestly requesting Bangladesh to cease fanning communal feelings and to build friendly relations between the two countries.

The statements made during the election by extremist leader Mashiur Rahman (Jadu Mian) and Moslem League leader Shah Azizur Rahman frightened the minorities. In joint statement during and after the election, the leaders of the Gonotantrik Oikko Jote appealed to Ziaur Rahman to stop communal incitement. They warned that such communal incitement could have serious results.

DESAI SPEAKS ON PROSECUTION OF GANDHI, VISIT TO U.S.

BK171617Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government will decide within the next 2 months the question of prosecution of Mrs Gandhi on the basis of the Shah Commission's findings. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, Mr Morarji Desai emphasized that in taking the decision the government will go absolutely according to the law and not by any political considerations. We would never act in a highhanded manner. Nor is there any question of making a law with retrospective effect to cover her actions which might not fall within the provisions of the existing laws.

Asked how an expeditious trial would be insured, Mr Desai said he would not like to say anything at this stage as the entire proposal is under consideration. But he ruled out any Nuremberg type of trial as demanded by the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist].

Replying to another question, he said that the case under which Mrs Gandhi had been arrested on the last occasion is not yet finished. Mr Desai was confident that Mrs Gandhi would not go unpunished for playing with the constitution. She has already been punished. Do you think she can stage a comeback? he asked, and added: I do not think so.

A relaxed Mr Desai took on the huge crowd of newsmen without showing any signs of strain or fatigue after his 12-day gruelling foreign tour from which he returned in the early hours of this morning. The 70-minute news conference was dominated mostly by questions on domestic issues to which he replied with good humor and ready repartee.

Answering a spate of questions on the differences within the ruling party, Mr Morarji Desai categorically said that there is no question of the party president, Mr Chadra Shekher, being asked to step down and a new executive being formed. He announced that the Parliamentary Board of the party will be meeting to review the developments within the ruling party and also to discuss Mr Raj Narain's recent statements. The board is meeting on Thursday. Mr Desai, however, denied that the differences in his party are serious.

Asked about the erosion of the Janata Party's image, he said no party can have the same level of popularity. We are trying to remedy the situation.

Asked about the reported statement of Mr C.B. Gupta about the possibility of all congressmen, past and present, coming together, Mr Desai said he does not think it will be possible ever.

Asked about the Boothlingam Committee report [on wages] the prime minister admitted that there can be differences of opinion on such reports, but the government will arrive at its own conclusion without setting up another committee to go into the matter.

About his talks with President Carter on fuel for Tarapore, the prime minister reiterated that America is under contractual obligation to supply enriched uranium until 1993. But the United States has taken a position that under the existing laws it cannot continue supplies beyond 1980. He has pointed out to them that the India-U.S. agreement was not subject to these laws. India, however, has no desire to take the issue to a court, because relations between the two countries cannot be decided in that way.

Asked about the reprocessing of the spent fuel, the prime minister said we are finding out what to do.

Mr Desai reacted sharply to an allegation made by Mrs Gandhi that he has been influenced by foreign powers. He said she is only reflecting her own self by making such statements. It is obvious that nobody has been able to influence us. He has given no assurance to the United States on nuclear explosions; but he stated that it was India's policy of not having nuclear explosions, because these are not necessary for peaceful purposes. He also denied that the strength of the air force is being reduced. He had clearly stated that seven squadrons are being replaced by five squadrons, but they will be of equivalent strength.

The prime minister was asked about the statement by the Chinese delegation in Islamabad regarding Kashmir and the construction of the Karakoram road over the areas occupied by Pakistan [in Kashmir]. The prime minister declared that the matter of construction of the road will certainly be taken up when talks take place, but he did not think another formal protest will be very useful. A protest had already been lodged in the past with Pakistan for ceding a portion of the territory to China which belongs to India. He said there is nothing new in the Chinese statement. They have reiterated their known stand. Mr Desai said we are not affected as we have our own stand on it.

Answering another question, he said India stands by the pledge to recover its territory occupied by China. We had not given it up. But we will not use force to get that territory vacated.

The prime minister strongly refuted suggestions that there had been any stress on Indian-Iranian relations and on the developments in Afghanistan. There might be slight difference in the appreciation of the developments in Afghanistan, but there is absolutely no stress.

The prime minister disclosed that the shah of Iran had told him that (?he was) taking steps to bring about relaxation in the administration.

Mr Desai was asked whether he had been able to influence the British Conservative Party chairman, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's, views on the issue of Asian immigrants. Amidst laughter Mr Desai quipped: Who can influence a conservative party?

DELHI PATRIOT RAPS PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S U.S. TRIP

BK211341Y Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Jun 78 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Unnecessary"]

[Text] Mr Morarji Desai's visit to the United States was an unnecessary flourish. Even without it, means could have been found to indicate to the government in Washington and the people of this country that a slow but deliberate exercise to change our foreign policy has begun. If this had to be justified in terms of ardent and ever-increasing affection between the prime minister and the U.S. President, the publication of their never ending correspondence would have been enough. The visit only helped to make this country look a more committed U.S. satellite than it as yet is. Global issues are reported to have been discussed and on all issues Mr Desai's and Mr Carter's views are reported to have been identical. How this state of sudden and total affinity could have been achieved when, till almost yesterday, the two countries differed so much on developments in Africa, west Asia, Southeast Asia, arms sales policy, etc., is not of course explained in the joint communique; but then, such prosaic documents are not supposed to delve into the mysteries of human affection and what it can achieve in the realm of diplomacy.

Mr Desai's decision that India had better "perish" than seek to defend itself if necessary against nuclear armed enemies, could better have been made in this country than in the United States; but then who can dictate to such a saintly mind like the prime minister's when it is bent on a vast mission of correcting the progress of humanity at large. Nuclear policy, the details of foreign relationships and such small matters had better to be left to lesser people. Otherwise, commitments in these fields may create trouble for future governments. Mr Morarji Desai is a strong and enduring leader no doubt; but even he cannot be certain that he will be the prime minister forever. Nor can any prime minister tie the hands of future governments and parliaments in any matter.

What did Mr Morarji get in return for his total renunciation of nuclear defence? He was told that if the hawks in the U.S. Congress agree momentarily to look the other way, Mr Carter, using such loopholes as may be available to him, will manage to give us the precious 7.6 tons of enriched uranium to save Tarapore. But even if the hawks oblige, this does not mean that there will be a repeat performance unless we agree to let the U.S. specialists investigate and control all our nuclear facilities. That is what "U.S. law" demands, and it is within its ambit that President Carter has agreed to "continue nuclear cooperation with India."

Another field in which mutual affection bore instant fruit was that of private enterprise. Both the president and the prime minister languish for "cooperation between Indian and U.S. commercial organizations." To facilitate this, an American business wizard will settle down in India and tell our tycoons how they can build efficient lobbies in Parliament and the government such as have been built in Washington. This, of course, is a fraternal gesture that will win the hearts of the FICCI [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry] and other patriotic institutions. But such kindness is only part of the load of "shared values" that the prime minister is bringing from Washington, and we should not be surprised if every kindhearted multinational demands its own man to be attached to the Government of India.

PAKISTAN

DESIRE TO ATTEND BELGRADE NONALINED MEET CONFIRMED

BK211641Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Official sources have confirmed reports that Pakistan desires to participate in Nonalined Foreign Ministers Conference beginning in Belgrade on 22 July.

These sources have said that Pakistan has been in touch with supporters of participation in the conference, and it is expected that founding members like India, Yugoslavia and Egypt will support Pakistan's participation.

From all indications available, these sources have expressed optimism that Pakistan may be invited to the conference as a guest participant.

These sources said that, apart from the founding members, Pakistan expects support from many countries.

SRI LANKA

PRC VICE PREMIER KENG PIAO ARRIVES IN COLOMBO

BK211101Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 21 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, June 21 (AFP)--Chinese Vice Premier Keng Piao was given a warm welcome when he arrived here today on a four-day official visit to Sri Lanka.

Mr Keng, who is on a goodwill visit, was received by Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, Foreign Minister A.C.S.Hameed, senior government officials and the diplomatic corps at a ceremonial reception at the airport.

Festive drums throbbed as the Chinese leader, accompanied by his wife Madame Chao Lan-hsiang and an entourage of 20, alighted from the special plane.

After the airport reception which included an army guard-of-honour, Mr Keng was conducted in a state drive along a 20-mile (30-km) decorated route to the government guest house where he is staying.

The Chinese leader will have two rounds of official talks with Sri Lanka leaders during which international issues and bilateral matters will be discussed. The talks begin this evening when Mr Keng calls on Prime Minister Premadasa. The discussions will be continued tomorrow morning with Foreign Minister Hameed. The Chinese vice premier will also call on President J.R. Jayewardene tomorrow.

Diplomatic observers here expect that in their review of the international situation, the two sides will exchange views on the Soviet-Cuban influence in Africa, the recent special UN session on disarmament and the non-aligned movement among other matters. The Chinese leader is also expected to explain his country's position regarding its present dispute with Vietnam. On bilateral matters emphasis will be on ways of expanding trade between the two countries and economic aid which China could provide Sri Lanka.

On Friday, Mr Keng will drive to Kandy, 72 miles (115 kms) from here in the hills, where he will visit the famous botanical gardens, pay homage at the Buddhist "Temple of the Tooth," and see work on the multi-purpose Mahaveli River diversion project--one of the development schemes likely to be assisted by China.

Begins Talks

BK211311Y Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 21 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Official talks between Sri Lanka and the People's Republic of China commenced at 1630 this afternoon at the prime minister's office at the (?Srimatipaho) in Colombo. The Sri Lanka delegation led by the prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa, included the minister of foreign affairs, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese team is led by the visiting vice premier of the People's Republic of China, Mr Keng Piao, and included the vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Han Nien-lung, and senior officials of the Asian Department of PRC's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The prime minister and Mrs Premadasa will host a dinner in honor of the visiting Chinese premier at Temple Trees at 2000 hours today.

TRADE WITH MALDIVES RESUMED AFTER CHOLERA SCARE

BK201522Y Colombo WEEKEND in English 11 Jun 78 p 3 BK

[Text] Trade between Sri Lanka and the Maldives, which was suspended in mid-March following an outbreak of cholera in Male, has resumed.

This follows an international health certificate issued by the World Health Organisation dated May 16, that cholera in the Maldives was well under control.

The WHO certificate further states that the vibrios cannot survive in salted foods for more than 5 days. However, the port health authorities will carry out quality control tests on Maldivian cargo before they enter the Colombo port.

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